Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

May 28, 2023 ~ Pentecost
Whole Community Worship

We Gather Together

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Introit — Open Our Hearts — MV 21

Call to Worship

One: We gather together, as people of God and followers of Christ.
All: May we feel the power of the Holy Spirit blowing through this place as we worship.
One: We gather together, each of us on our own spiritual journey.
All: May we be nourished by your presence, as we worship, O Holy One.
One: We gather together, to support and encourage each other and all those we meet.
All: May we be nurtured by your wisdom, as we strengthen our bonds as a community of faith.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Loving God, we come before you as a diverse people, each of us on our own unique path, but travelling the road of faith together. Deepen our understanding, we pray, of your dreams and visions for each of us. May your presence in our lives sustain us and help us to scatter the seeds of love, care, and kindness in our community and beyond. We give thanks for the teachings of Jesus. Let them take root in our lives that we may grow and blossom as followers of the One who taught compassion. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn — *River* — MV 3

Children's Book — *It Starts with a Seed* by L. Knowles & J. Webber
Children are invited forward for a special time.

*Children's Hymn — *Dance with the Spirit* — MV 156

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture Reading — Pentecost told in a Godly play style

*Hymn — *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* — VU 375

Scripture — Luke 8:4-15

Anthem — *A New Creed* — music & arr. by Ben Severson

Children's Time — Growing Seeds

*Hymn — *Soil of God, You and I* — MV 174

Reflection — Faith: Nourish and Nurture

Hymn — *Open Our Hearts (reprise)* — MV 21

Prayers of the People

We Respond with our Gifts and our Lives

Offering our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to: contactus@riverbendunited.org or on the church website. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in hope that peace may spread to all.

*Closing Hymn — *Go, Make a Difference* — MV 209

*Benediction

Postlude

**denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined*

"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*
"MV" refers to the spiral bound songbook *More Voices*

Thank you for supporting The United Church of Canada's **Mission and Service** with a special gift today. M & S is in partnership with organizations locally and globally with these goals:

- To help transform lives
- To inspire meaning and purpose
- To build a better world

Welcome to Riverbend United Church. If you're new with us, we'd love to meet you. Feel free to introduce yourself to your neighbour in the pew, and/or fill out a Welcome Card in the pews if you wish to be updated on upcoming activities.

Please note

- **New Members will be received on June 11**. Let Valerie know if you are interested in joining Riverbend United Church.

- **In July, we will worship at St. Paul's United Church** each Sunday at 11526 76 Avenue, with RUC leading worship. In August, St. Paul's will worship here at RUC with us, and they will lead worship.

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